ECONOMICS 100A: MICROECONOMICS A   Spring 2022

Instructor: Herb Newhouse (hnewhouse@ucsd.edu)   Course webpage: https://canvas.ucsd.edu/
Office Hours: T from 10:00 am – 12:00 pm and from 1:30 – 2:30 pm   Online
Lectures: MWF 9:00 – 9:50 am in MOS 0204   Discussions: W 12:00 – 12:50 pm

TA: Steven Brownstone (sbrownst@ucsd.edu)   Office Hours: TBD

This course is the first of three courses in microeconomics. We will learn how to set up, solve and analyze optimization models and apply these mathematical models to the theory of the consumer. Applications include commodity demand, labor supply and consumption/savings decisions. Finally, we will examine the fundamentals of decision making under risk and uncertainty.

Prerequisites:

ECON 1; and MATH 10C or MATH 20C or MATH 31BH.

Lectures and Review Sessions:

You are responsible for all the material covered in lecture and in the problem sets. Partial notes will be available on the class webpage before each lecture. I recommend that you print these out beforehand and fill in the missing information. I'll do my best to avoid typos but you're responsible for the correct material. I want you to understand the material instead of simply memorizing it. If you miss a lecture, borrow someone's notes. We will schedule a review session for each exam. Discussion sections are optional but recommended.

Lectures will be held in person and podcasted. Discussion sections and review sessions will be recorded.

Grading:

My prediction of how I will assess you in this course is:

Your grade will be determined based on two midterm exams and a final exam. Each of your two highest exams will count as 37.5% of your overall grade; your lowest exam will count as 25% of your overall grade. If you miss an exam for a documented, university approved reason (ie., illness, official university trip), you will need to take a make-up exam. The make-up exam could include written and oral components. If you miss an exam for another reason (ie., oversleep, forget the time), you will receive a zero on the exam.

Midterm 1 will be held during a window that includes our class hours on Monday, April 18th. Midterm 2 will be held during a window that includes our class hours on Wednesday, May 11th. The final exam will be held on Wednesday, June 8th during a window that overlaps our officially scheduled time between 8:00 am and 11:00 am. I expect that each midterm will last approximately 40 minutes and that the final exam will last approximately 60 minutes. I also expect that most students will need approximately 10-20 minutes for setup and submission. If you know in advance that you cannot make an exam, please let me know as soon as possible.

You are only permitted to use pens and pencils, a straight edge, a **single** note sheet and a calculator during each exam. The note sheet can be any physical size up to 8.5" by 11". It may **only** have handwritten notes on both sides. Typed or mechanically reproduced notes are not permitted. Do **not** attach anything to your note sheet.

While I will do what I can to keep to the predicted assessments for this course, the evolving situation may make it necessary for me to make changes.

Academic dishonesty:

I take academic dishonesty seriously. Any student found guilty of academic dishonesty will most likely earn a failing grade for the course. In addition to this sanction, the Council of Deans of Student Affairs will also impose a disciplinary penalty. For a review of UCSD policy, please see http://www-senate.ucsd.edu/manual/appendices/app2.htm.

We will likely use Zoom for proctoring this quarter. It uses video and audio recording or other personal information capture for the purpose of facilitating the course and/or test environment. UC San Diego does not allow vendors to use this information for other purposes. Recordings will be deleted when no longer necessary. However, if cheating is suspected, the recording may become part of the student's administrative disciplinary record

A TA or I may request a copy of your exam recordings. Failure to provide us with a copy upon request will result in a grade of zero on the corresponding exam. **You must keep a copy of your exam recordings until the beginning of the Fall 2022 quarter.** Zoom recordings that are automatically saved to the cloud are deleted after a certain amount of time. If you save any of your exam recordings to the cloud, make sure you download them locally so that you can provide them to us if you are requested to do so.

Finally, I reserve the right to give an oral test if I feel it is necessary to uphold academic integrity.

Regrade requests:

Regrade requests may be submitted via Gradescope during the weeklong regrade period. A separate request needs to be made for each part that you would like regraded. The regrade period will probably begin a day or two after the exam results are made available to the class. Please do not contact the instructor or any of the TAs regarding the grading of an exam or the grading for the course before the regrade period begins. If your TA agrees with your request, your score for that question will be corrected. If your TA disagrees with your request, you will lose 1 point for each part of a midterm question and 2 points for each part of a final exam question.

Text and additional resources:

Varian, *Digital Inclusive Intermediate Microeconomics with Calculus & Smartworks*, (first edition). Your textbook is provided in a digital format through Canvas and is free for the first two weeks of class. Your student account will then be charged for use of the content covering the rest of the quarter unless you opt-out of the content by April 9th. Opt-out will be an option when you access the material, or you can email textbooks@ucsd.edu.

Digital access to this textbook lasts for 450 days and it is also used in Econ 100B and Econ 100C. I will give references for this text. The material for this course is fairly standard; other Microeconomic Theory books are probably fine. There is a free textbook you can access online, McAfee and Lewis, *Introduction to Economic Analysis*, http://www.introecon.com/ . I have not looked through this text carefully but have read that its level is in between Econ 1 and Econ 100A.

Machina, Mark (2010), *Math Handout*.

Microeconomics Video Handbook (MVH). The MVH is over 220 videos created by UCSD faculty on the 100ABC material. A link to the MVH is on Canvas.

Problem Sets:

Problem sets will be available online. We will go over these questions in office hours and in the discussion sections. Your best practice for the exams is to try these questions yourself first.

Preliminary Course Outline:

Topic	Text	Math Handout	Video
Introduction/Math Review	Ch. 1	Sections A, B, C	B1 – 3
Consumer Preferences:			
Axioms of Rational Choice	Ch. 3.1, 3.2, 3.5		C1a – C1j
Utility Functions	Ch. 4 intro, 4.1, 4.2		
Indifference Curves	Ch. 3.3		A2
Marginal Rate of Substitution	Ch. 3.6, 3.7, 3.8		
Marginal Utility	Ch. 4.4, 4.5		
Common Utility Functions	Ch. 3.4, 4.3		C1k
Budget Constraints	Ch. 2		C2a
Optimization Review	Appendix 14, 15	Sections D, E	A3-A4
Utility Maximization & Demand	Ch. 5		C2
Comparative Statics of Demand:			
Income Changes	Ch. 6.1, 6.2, 6.3		C3
Price Changes	Ch. 6.4, 6.5, 6.6, 6.7, 6.8		C4
Compensated Price Changes	Ch. 8.1, 8.2, 8.3		C5
Slutsky Equation	Ch. 8.4, 8.5		C5
Demand Relationships	Ch. 8.6, 8.7, 8.8, 8.9		C6
Elasticity			
Consumer Surplus	Ch. 14		C7
Supply of Labor	Ch. 9		C8
Supply of Saving	Ch. 10		C9
Risk & Uncertainty	Ch. 12		C10

This outline is preliminary. It is subject to change.